



# *City of Ridgecrest* **Police Department**

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**RONALD N. STRAND, Chief of Police**

## **Press Release**

**DATE OF INCIDENT:** January 25, 2013

**TYPE OF INCIDENT:** PC 245(c) – Assault w/ Deadly Weapon (2 counts), CVC 2800.2 – Felony Evading in Vehicle and PC 69 – Resist, Obstruct, and Delay an Officer w/ Force (2 counts).

**LOCATION:** City of Ridgecrest, County of Kern and County of San Bernardino Jurisdiction.

**SUSPECT:** Kauth, Michael Eugene Jr. – 21 yoa.

### **RESUME OF INCIDENT**

On 01/25/2013, at approximately 0030 hours, Ofc. Bill Groves and Ofc. Kyle Cushman were on patrol. They observed a white colored Toyota truck and stopped it for traffic violations in the 300 block of S. China Lake Blvd. As they approached and made contact with the driver, the driver, later identified as Michael Eugene Kauth Jr. fled from the scene southbound on S. China Lake Blvd.

The officers gave chase and began pursuing Kauth. Kauth failed to yield, continued to accelerate and led the officers on a high speed chase through several city streets, including unincorporated areas in Kern and San Bernardino County. During the pursuit, Kauth intentionally rammed a Ridgecrest Police Department patrol vehicle, tearing the front end off of the vehicle (bumper/push bar/ headlight assembly). Kauth continued to flee, and for a period of time pursuing vehicle lost contact. During this time, it is believed Kauth rolled his vehicle in the area of Bella Vista Estates, and was seen traveling E/B through the desert toward Wagon Wheel. The pursuit was subsequently terminated. Approximately two hours later, Kauth's vehicle was located by RPD officers abandoned/disabled near Trona Rd. The collision caused major damage to both vehicles.

Kauth was located at approximately 0930 hours, at residence on E. Laura Ave. He was subsequently arrested by Ofc. Adam Shaffer without further incident. Kauth was booked for the above listed charges.

**RONALD N. STRAND, Chief of Police**

**PREPARED BY:** Sgt. R. Marrone

**Friday, January 25, 2013**